

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants would initially like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Kerry Culpepper, Esq., Reg. No. 45,672, during a telephonic interview on June 12, 2003, during which the merits of the Examiner's Office Action dated January 3, 2003 were discussed.

Claims 16 and 18 were amended merely to correct grammatical errors. Therefore, the amendments to claims 16 and 18 have not narrowed the scope of these claims within the meaning defined in Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 535 U.S. 722 (2002).

The Examiner has objected to the title as being non-descriptive. Applicant has accordingly amended the title to recite "INFORMATION SERVICE SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING TERMINAL USERS WITH TERMINAL USER SPECIFIC INFORMATION." Therefore, because the title has been amended to be indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Claims 1 – 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,575 to Hoover *et al.* (Hoover). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites the novel embodiment disclosed on, for example, pg. 14 of an information system in which a plurality of user terminals are in data communication with a center. The center includes retrieval means such as, for example, the profile selection block 13 and information retrieval block 14 shown in FIG. 1, for retrieving information based on both information input by a user and information indicative of a situation of the user. Each of the user terminals includes situation detecting means (such as the situation detecting block 31 shown

in FIG. 2) for detecting information regarding the current situation of the user. This information is stored within an environment/situation profile. Examples of such information are disclosed on, for example, pgs. 17 – 18. An example of an environment/situation profile is disclosed on, for example, pg. 26. For example, if the terminal-side information includes eating and hot weather, the center determines that the terminal user is requesting restaurant information and accordingly retrieves information regarding restaurants that supply cold refreshments or that provide a cool environment.

Hoover discloses a system for object based relational distributed databases in which a broker computer transforms data received from a plurality of remote heterogeneous user databases (or user computers) into a homogenous data model. (See Abstract). The user computers are operative to perform data operations of storing, updating, and retrieving user data items in response to user commands. (See Col. 5, Lines 51 – 56). However, Hoover fails to disclose situation detecting means for a detecting the situation of the user. Rather, Hoover merely discloses checking a user password. (See Col. 31, Lines 10 – 11).

The Examiner has asserted that this checking of a user password operation (or checking of access privileges) is equivalent to the situation detecting means recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree, as the situation detecting means is clearly disclosed in the present specification as being directed to information regarding the environment and situation of the user. (See pg. 17, lines 19 – 20). Examples of information detected by the situation detecting means include: time information, present location, weather of the destination, noise environment, etc. (See pgs. 17 – 18).

Further, although Hoover discloses that the user computers retrieve data from the broker computer, Hoover fails to disclose that the user computer generates and transmits terminal-side

information that includes both input information and situation information, and that the broker computer retrieves information based upon the situation information as well as the input information as recited in claim 1. Rather, Hoover merely discloses that the broker computer retrieves an object identifier for a subject in question in response to a query for data relating to the particular subject, retrieves the location of a remote user associated with the retrieved object identifier and finally retrieves the data stored at the remote user. (See col. 6, lines 1 – 10).

The Examiner has asserted that col. 6, lines 27 – 51 of Hoover discloses the retrieval means recited in claim 1. However, this portion of Hoover merely explains the methodology by which the broker computer maintains a mapping table and associated tables and functions for redirecting requests from remote users to the correct address space. There is no disclosure regarding retrieving information based upon terminal-side information that includes situation information.

Therefore, because Hoover fails to disclose situation detecting means for detecting a situation of the user, that the user computer generates and transmits terminal-side information including both input information and situation information, and that the broker retrieves information based upon the situation information as well as the input information, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2 – 13, these claims depend from claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2 – 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should be withdrawn for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 1.

Further regarding the rejection of claim 3, claim 3 has been amended to recite the novel embodiment disclosed, for example, on pg. 44, lines 8 – 25 in which the retrieval means (information retrieval block) 14 retrieves information that is not directly available. This

information is obtained by being inferred from information received from a plurality of terminal-side information sources (users). Further, the information includes data regarding the environment of the user such as, for example, the weather.

As mentioned above, Hoover fails to disclose that the user computer generates and transmits terminal-side information that includes both input information and situation information and that the broker computer retrieves information based upon the situation information as well as the input information. Further, Hoover fails to disclose an information retrieval means that retrieves information by inferring information received from a plurality of users. Rather, Hoover merely discloses retrieving data items from one or more of the remote heterogeneous user databases (user computers). (See Abstract).

Therefore, because Hoover fails to disclose that the user computer generates and transmits situation information and that the broker computer includes information retrieval means that retrieves information by inferring information received from a plurality of users, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 3, as amended, be withdrawn.

Further regarding the rejection of claim 6, claim 6 recites the novel embodiment disclosed, for example, on pg. 17, lines 5 – 21 in which the terminal-side information is stored, transmitted and received in profiles such as, for example, the environment/situation profile, request/status profile or user profile. Information associated with particular entries such as, for example, time information, driving state and audio environment are included in the profiles.

Hoover fails to disclose storing, transmitting and receiving terminal-side information in profiles. The Examiner has asserted that col. 31, lines 56 – col. 32, lines 13 of Hoover disclose such profiles. However, this portion of Hoover merely discloses that the object broker 20

communicates with the remote user by sending a request message based on a particular object identifier. The particular object identifier is utilized to determine the location of the remote user. Information mentioned in this portion refers to the current location of the remote user. More specifically, when a user computer site 12a requests data that is stored at another remote terminal 28b, the get request message is sent to the object broker 20 so that the location of the remote terminal that has the requested data is found. This is the purpose of the request message. However, the request message does not include any profiles.

Therefore, because Hoover fails to disclose storing, transmitting and receiving terminal-side information in profiles, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claims 14 and 15, these claims also recite the novel embodiment recited above in which the center includes retrieval means such as the profile selection block 13 and information retrieval block 14 for retrieving information based on terminal-side information transmitted by a user terminal. The terminal-side information includes both information input by a user and information indicative of a situation of the user. Claim 14 is directed to the center and claim 15 is directed to the user terminals.

As mentioned above, Hoover fails to disclose such terminal-side information or retrieval means that are based on such terminal-side information. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 14 and 15 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claim 16 – 19, these claims depend from claim 15. Therefore, the rejection of claims 16 – 19 should be withdrawn for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 15.

Further regarding the rejection of claim 17, claim 17 also recites the novel embodiment disclosed, for example, on pg. 17, lines 5 – 21 in which the terminal-side information is stored, transmitted and received in profiles such as, for example, the environment/situation profile, request/status profile or user profile. As mentioned above, Hoover fails to disclose storing, transmitting and receiving terminal-side information in profiles. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claim 20, claim 20 recites the novel embodiment discussed above with respect to claim 1 in non means plus function language. Therefore, the rejection of claim 20 should be withdrawn for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 1.

New claims 21 – 23 are presented for examination. These claims recite features that further distinguish the present invention from the art of record. Support for new claims 21 – 23 can be found on, for example, pgs. 17 – 18.

Further regarding new claim 21, this claim depends from claim 14. Therefore, new claim 21 should be in condition for allowance for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 14.

Further regarding new claims 22 – 23, these claims depend from claim 1. Therefore, new claims 22 – 23 should be in condition for allowance for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 1.

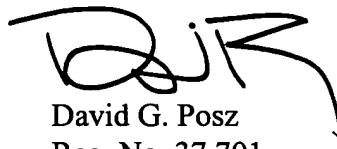
As the application is in condition for allowance for the above stated reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance as soon as possible.

Serial No. 09/605,688

Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2003

Permission is hereby given to charge any unanticipated fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DGP' with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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